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THE ECHIDNA
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PENDER

KNUCKLES™
BOOK TWENTY-ONE

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as **GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND,** defender of all the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten within, he is none other than... **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

The Forbidden Zone
Part Three of Three

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As the blizzard-like snows turn into torrential rainfall on **The Floating Island,** fate has conspired to set various individuals on a collision course with destiny, linking up **Locke** with his former wife **Lara-Le, Knuckles** with his ancestors gathered in **Haven,** and **Commander Geoffrey St. John** with **Ellas,** who claims to be the son of **King Acorn.**

It is on the way to Haven that we find King Acorn's elite squad coping as best they can...

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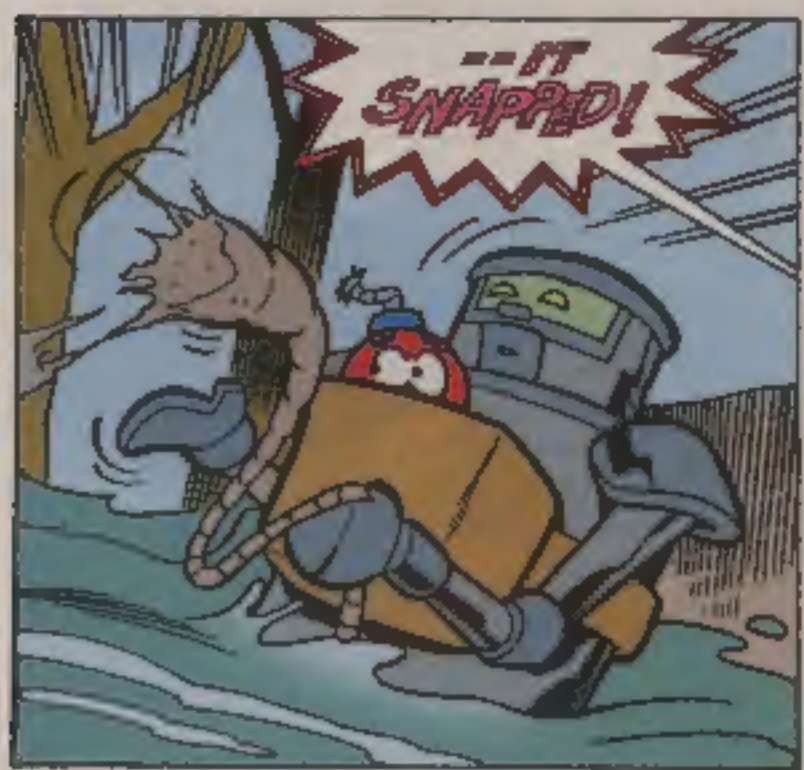
I TOLD YOU TO HAVE FAITH, COMMANDER--
-- AND I WAS PROVEN RIGHT!
WHOEVER IT IS, BETTER MOVE THEIR TAIL FASTER!
COMMANDER! THE ROPE! IT'S GONNA--


--IT SNAPPED!

WE SEEM TO BE MOVING, HEAVY!
THAT'S BECAUSE OF TOO MUCH TENSION EXERTED UPON AN OBJECT ALREADY EXTENDED TO THE MAXIMUM OF ITS ABILITY, BOMB!

WE LOST THEM!
NOT YET, WE HAVEN'T!
ARE YOU KID-- HEY!!
WHAT THE DICKENS IS GOING ON HERE, MATE?!

YOUR ANSWER IS IN THERE, COMMANDER!
WHAT ABOUT HEAVY AND BOMB?

"THE BROTHERHOOD OF HAVEN WILL NOT ABANDON THEM IN THEIR TIME OF NEED!"

ONCE MY SENSORS REGISTERED HIGH HUMIDITY WEATHER, I KNEW MY CIRCUITS WERE IN DEEP DOO-DOO, BOMB!

"DOO-DOO" HEAVY?

WHERE ON MOBIUS DID YOU GET THAT EXPRESSION?

OUR COLLEAGUE, VALDEZ, USES IT ALL THE TIME!

ESPECIALLY WHEN THE COMMANDER CALLS ON HIM!

WHAT'S OUR HEADING, HEAVY?

WE SEEM TO BE SWIRLING EVERY WHICH WAY!

MY SENSORS REGISTER THE FLOWING WATERS WILL END WITHIN ONE HUNDRED AND SIX METERS!

BEYOND THAT, I REGISTER NOTHING BUT GAS, PRIMARILY OF A NITROGEN-HYDROGEN-OXYGEN MIX!

I HATE TO SAY IT, HEAVY--

--BUT WE REALLY ARE IN DEEP DOO-DOO!

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BOMB!

"ANTI-GRAVITATIONAL FORCES SEEM TO HAVE US IN THEIR PULL!"

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT, LOCKE--

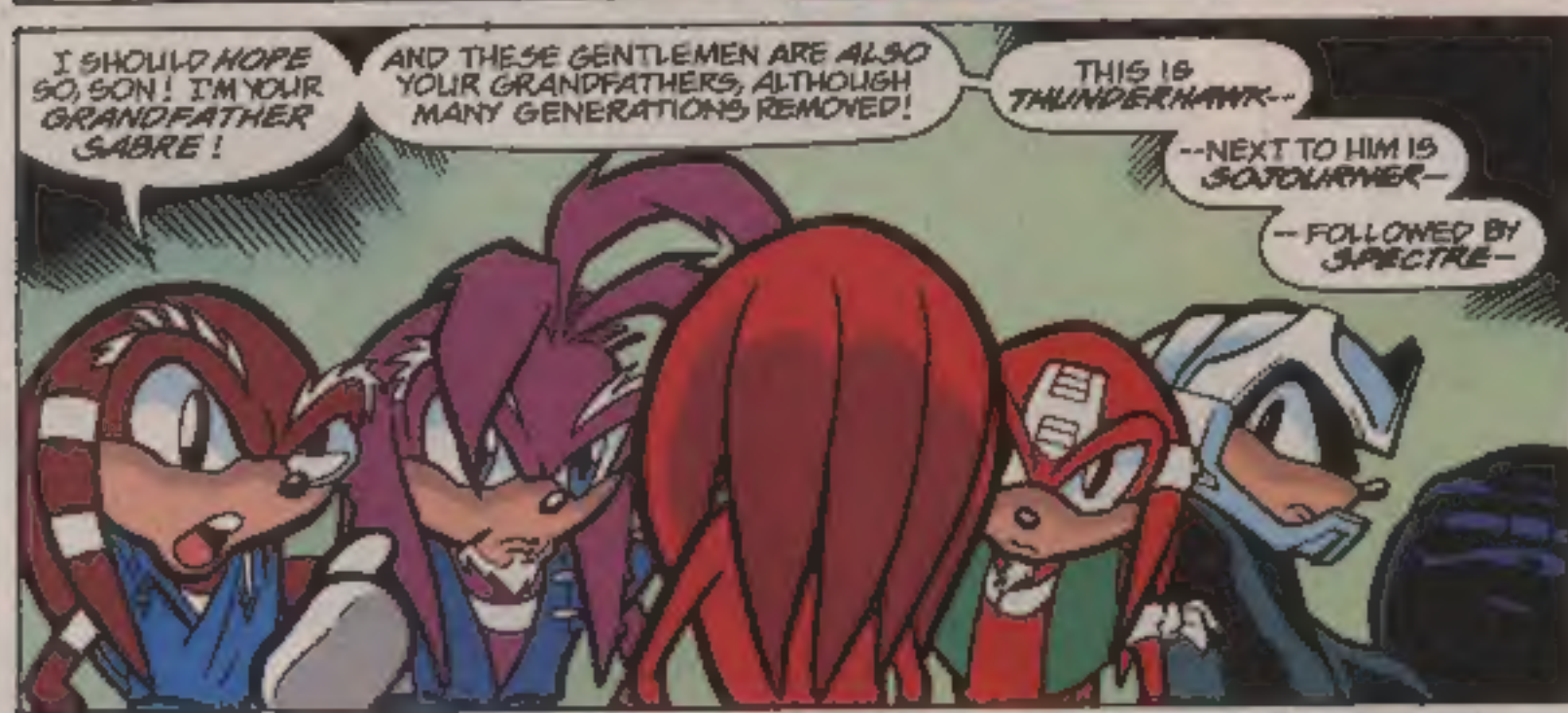
--HOW YOU ARE ABLE TO WIELD SUCH AWESOME POWER--

"—AND STILL MAKE A MESS OF YOUR MARRIAGE!"
"I'VE SPENT MANY A LONG NIGHT WONDERING ABOUT THAT VERY TOPIC, LARA—BACK IN HAVEN..."
THIS IS A DISASTER!
KNUCKLES ISN'T READY FOR HAVEN! HE'S TOO UNDISCIPLINED!
MAYBE! MAYBE NOT!
WHO'S TO SAY OUR WAY HAS BEEN THE RIGHT WAY ALL ALONG?

YOU WOULD QUESTION OUR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, SABRE?
OUR SYSTEM HAS WORKED FOR OVER FOUR CENTURIES!
WE SHOULD SEND THE LAD BACK-- BEFORE HE COMES TO HIS SENSES!
SABRE IS CORRECT!
FATE HAS TAKEN A HAND IN THE MATTER--
--SIGNALING THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO RE-EVALUATE OUR PRIORITIES!
THIS IS WORSE THAN A DISASTER! ALL THE DECADES OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION WIPED OUT IN AN INSTANT ONCE THAT RODENT OPENS HIS MOUTH!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--
--BUT WHAT?!!
KNUCKLES, MY BOY--
--I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW--
--THINGS AREN'T QUITE WHAT YOU THINK!
The Many Facets Of The
TRUTH

OH, YEAH?
AND WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?
YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN MISTER FORTH-COMING, Y'KNOW!
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HIM, SON--

--HE WAS ONLY DOING WHAT HE WAS TOLD!
HAVE WE MET?
YOU SEEM VAGUELY FAMILIAR!


I SHOULD HOPE SO, SON! I'M YOUR GRANDFATHER SABRE!
AND THESE GENTLEMEN ARE ALSO YOUR GRANDFATHERS, ALTHOUGH MANY GENERATIONS REMOVED!
THIS IS THUNDERHAWK--
--NEXT TO HIM IS SOJOURNER--
--FOLLOWED BY SPECTRE--

--AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, TOBOR!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, GRANDSON!
FIRST CHANCE I GET WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU!
I'M SURE!
NO TELLING WHAT'S WHAT JUST YET, SO I BETTER PLAY ALONG UNTIL I SEE WHAT HIS GAME IS!

YOU STILL LOOK A BIT WOOZY, SON!
WHY DON'T I TAKE YOU DOWN TO SICK BAY AND HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT?
BUT I--
GO WITH TOBOR, KNUCKLES!
THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO TALK LATER!

THIS WAY, PLEASE, KNUCKLES!

THIS IS UNREAL!

I'M WALKING LOCKSTEP WITH A DARK LEGIONNAIRE!

DOES ANYONE ELSE EVEN HAVE A CLUE?

DOWN THIS CORRIDOR!

AND IF THEY DO-- WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?

IN HERE, SON!

WE'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF YOU!

I'LL BET!

SAY! OVER THERE ON THAT BED!

IS THAT--?

GRANDFATHER HAWKING!

AND HE'S GOT ALL THESE TUBES AND WIRES CONNECTED TO HIM!

HE'S ON LIFE SUPPORT, KNUCKLES.

HE'S BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE ECHIDNAOPOLIS WAS RESTORED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND! *

DO YOU THINK HE'LL GET ANY BETTER?

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MAKE A COPY OF THIS AD IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TEAR THIS PAGE OUT.

"THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN!"

I DON'T WISH TO SOUND *UNGRATEFUL*, MATE--

--BUT THAT WAS SOME *MAGIC ACT*!

JUST WHO THE BLAZES ARE YOU?

HIS NAME IS *LOCKE*, COMMANDER--

--AND HE'S ONE OF THE *BROTHERHOOD* I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT!

I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, ELIAS!

I'M CERTAIN THE COMMANDER IS *OVERFLOWING* WITH QUESTIONS!

YOU'VE A GIFT FOR *UNDERSTATEMENT*, MATE!

YOU'RE HERE REGARDING THE CRAFT THAT CARRIED *ELIAS* HERE OVER SOME *FIFTEEN* YEARS AGO, AREN'T YOU?

PRETTY MUCH!

FIRST, GIVE ME A MOMENT TO SET THE *AUTO-PILOT* FOR *HAVEN*, AND THEN WE'LL FILL IN THE *DETAILS*, COMMANDER!

HOW COME YOU *WEREN'T* THIS *COMMUNICATIVE* WHEN WE WERE *MARRIED*?

SAVE IT FOR *LATER*, LARA!

I WASN'T THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED, COMMANDER--

"—BUT FROM THE *RECORDS* WE HAVE ON HAND OF THE INCIDENT, *QUEEN ALICIA'S* CRAFT CRASH-LANDED ONTO THE ISLAND AFTER BEING *FIRED UPON* BY OVERLANDER AGGRESSORS...

KRA-AAASHH!

THIS POOR *SOUL* IS *GONE*!

SABRE! OVER *HERE*!

I'VE FOUND A *SURVIVOR*!

IT'S A *BABY*!

WE'D BETTER GET HIM TO THE *MED-LABS* FOR EXAMINATION!

SABRE! *COME QUICK*!

WHAT IS IT, GRANDFATHER *THUNDERHAWK*?

WE HAVE SOME *COMPANY*!

THE *OVERLANDERS* ARE *LANDING*!

"AS THE *DESIGNATED TEAM LEADER* OF THAT MISSION, MY FATHER MET WITH THE *OFFICER-IN-CHARGE* OF THE OVERLANDERS...

WE *DEMAND* THE RIGHT TO *INSPECT* THAT CRAFT!

AND WE *ASK* YOU RESPECT OUR *NEUTRALITY* IN REGARDS TO YOUR WAR WITH THE *HOUSE OF ACORN*!

BESIDES, THERE'S *NOTHING* FOR YOU HERE!

EVERYONE ABOARD WAS *KILLED*!

"... SINCE THE BROTHERHOOD HAD NOT ONCE *EVER INTERFERED* IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE OVERLANDERS, THEY TOOK SABRE AT *HIS WORD* AND *DEPARTED*!

"IT WAS A GOOD THING, TOO--

"... AS GRANDFATHER SPECTRE DISCOVERED--

QUEEN ALICIA'S ALIVE!

THOUGH JUST BARELY!

SPECTRE, YOU AND SOJOURNER WILL TAKE THE BABY AND QUEEN ALICIA TO HAVEN--

WHILE THUNDERHAWK AND I CLEAN UP THE CRASH SITE!

SABRE KNEW THE OVERLANDERS WOULD BE WATCHING TO SEE IF WE WOULD TAKE SIDES IN THE WAR--

--SO HE SAW TO IT THAT NOT A TRACE OF THE INCIDENT COULD BE FOUND!

"THE WRECKAGE WAS DISPOSED OF, AND THE BODIES WERE BURIED..

"...AND PRAYERS WERE SAID TO GUIDE THEM TO A NEW LIFE IN THE HEREAFTER AND BEYOND--

"AS FOR ELIAS AND QUEEN ALICIA..."

THE BOY IS RESTING COMFORTABLY IN HIS CRIB!

HE'S PERFECTLY FINE AND HAPPY!

THE SAME CAN'T BE SAID FOR HIS MOTHER! WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP HER IN THIS STASIS TUBE

--UNTIL WE'RE READY TO TRANSFER HER TO THE HYBER-CHAMBER FOR THE LONG TERM!

"LONG TERM?"

THE QUEEN WAS BARELY REGISTERING ANY BRAIN ACTIVITY--

--SO WE LAID OUT A PLAN TO PRESERVE HER UNTIL A METHOD COULD BE FOUND TO REGENERATE HER NEURAL NETWORK!

AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAD TO DEAL WITH THE RESCUE MISSIONS KING ACORN SENT.

DON'T YOU FEEL WE SHOULD AT LEAST RETURN THE BOY TO HIS FATHER?

NORMALLY, I'D BE THE FIRST TO AGREE --

--BUT THERE'S A LOT MORE AT STAKE HERE!

IF THE OVERLANDERS DISCOVER WE WITHHELD THE FACTS FROM THEM, THAT WILL FORCE THEIR HAND INTO TAKING ACTION--

--UPON WHICH WE WOULD BE FORCED INTO TAKING ACTION, AND GETTING DRAGGED INTO A WAR WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN WHATSOEVER!

YOU WANT THAT?

THAT KIND OF HEADACHE I DON'T NEED!

HOW'S THE BOY DOING, BY THE WAY?

SEE FOR YOURSELF!

THAT'S SOME MODEL, ELIAS!

YOU REALLY THINK SO?

I WISH I KNEW WHAT IT WAS!

YOUNG ELIAS TURNED OUT TO BE QUITE A PRODIGY!

UPON REACHING HIS TENTH YEAR, HE WAS ALLOWED TO VENTURE FORTH THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND!

SOMETHING JUST DOESN'T ADD UP HERE, MATE!

HOW D'YA ACCOUNT FOR THE COLONEL?

THAT WAS AN *OVERSIGHT* ON THE PART OF ONE OF THE *BROTHERHOOD'S OWN!*

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A *SURVIVOR* FLUNG FROM THE CRAFT DURING THE CRASH LANDING!

BROTHER TOBOR HAD NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE *POSSIBILITY* OF SOMEONE BEING THROWN TO SAFETY WHEN THE CRAFT WAS BREAKING UP!

THE *OVER-LANDERS'* REACTION UPON DISCOVERING HIM SHOULD BE QUITE *INTERESTING!*

LUCKILY THE COLONEL WAS FOUND KING ACORN'S RESCU TEAM FIRST

HOWEVER HE DID NOT RETURN WITH THE KING, EXILING HIMSELF TO THE ROYAL COMPOUND EVER SINCE.

HE *IS*--AND YOU *MAY*!

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, WE'RE JUST A MINUTE OR SO FROM *DOCKING!*

I'D LIKE TO *QUESTION* THIS *TOBOR* A BIT FURTHER, IF HE'S STILL AROUND!

ARE YOU *NUTS?*

YOU'RE HEADING INTO A *WALL OF FLAME!*

HOW IS IT *POSSIBLE?*

EVERYONE, *RELAX*--

"...IT'S JUST A *HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION* CONCEALING THE *ENTRANCE!*"

"WHAT OTHER SURPRISES D'YA HAVE UP YOUR SLEEVE, MATE?"

NOW DON'T YOU WORRY ONE BIT, YOU DEAR BOY--

--THE DOCTOR WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

UGH!

I THINK-- I'LL--

--TAKE A PASS!

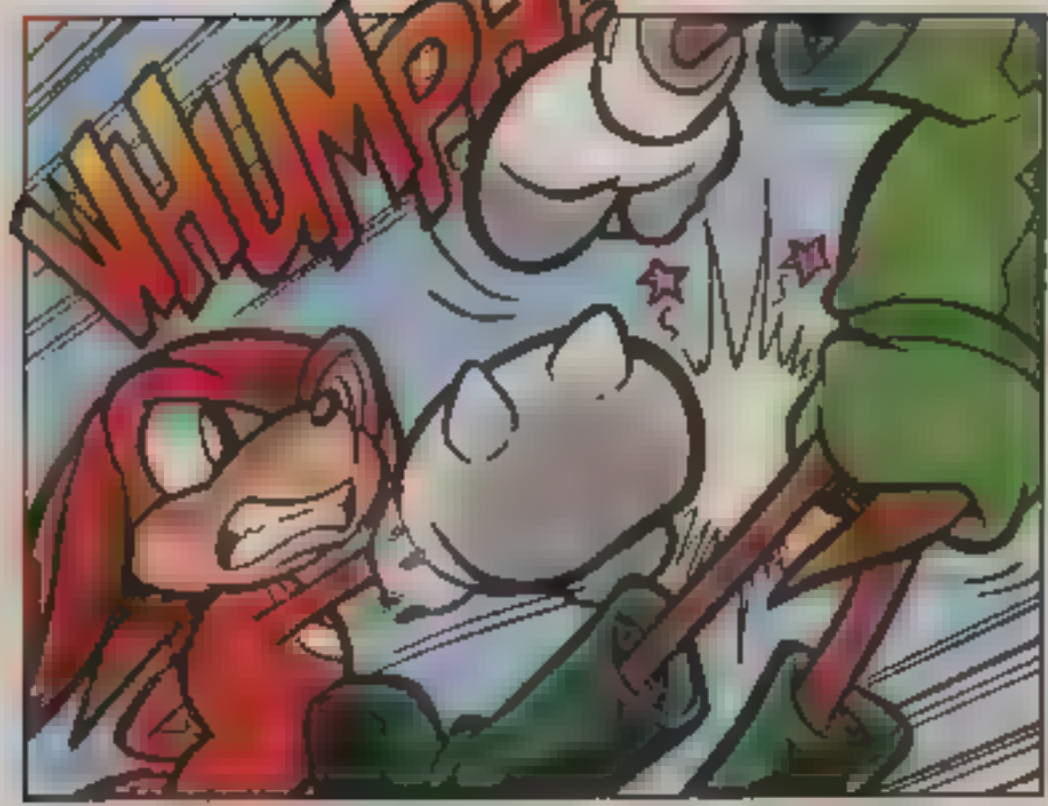
SHAKSH! KRAKAKSH!

THAT'S QUITE SOME BEDSIDE MANNER YOU GOT THERE--

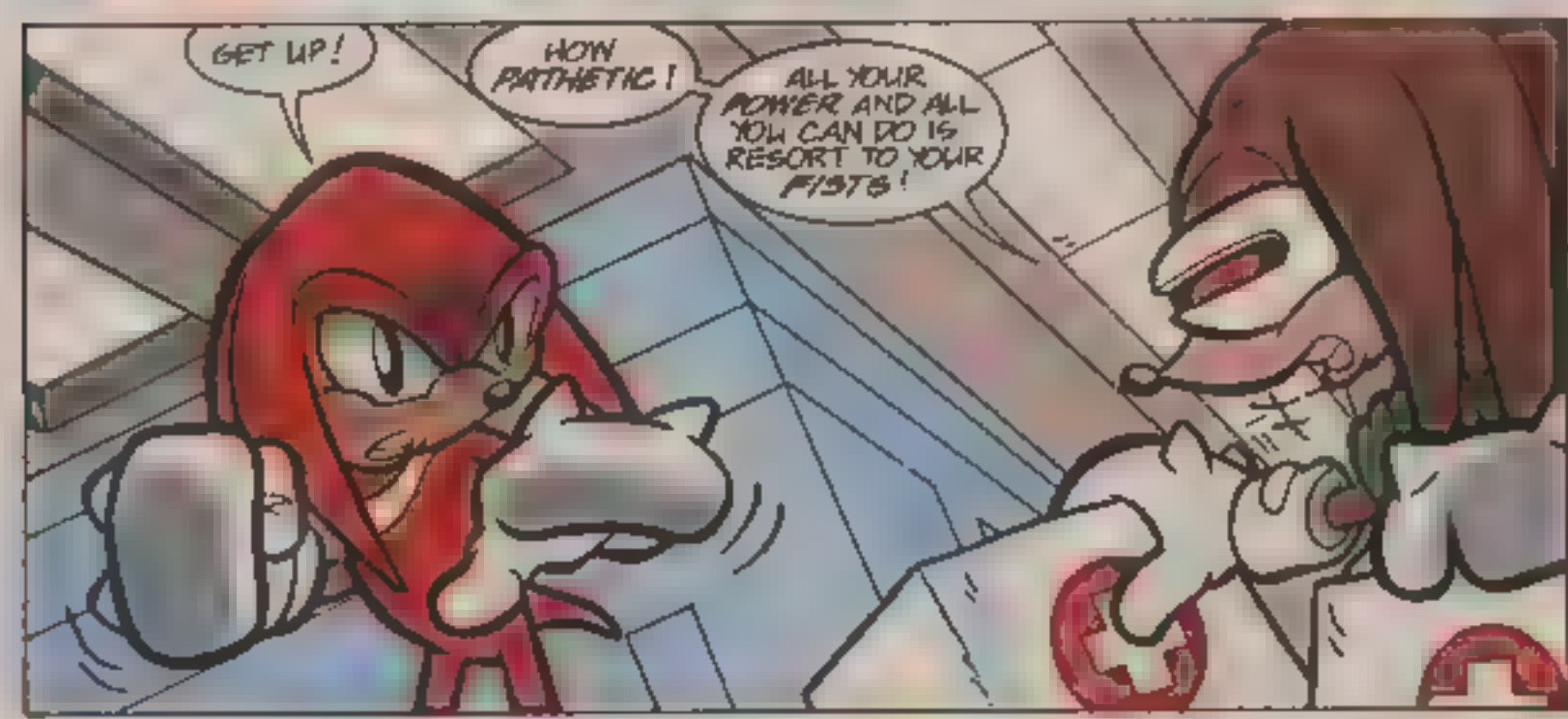
--MORTOR!

ARGGHH!

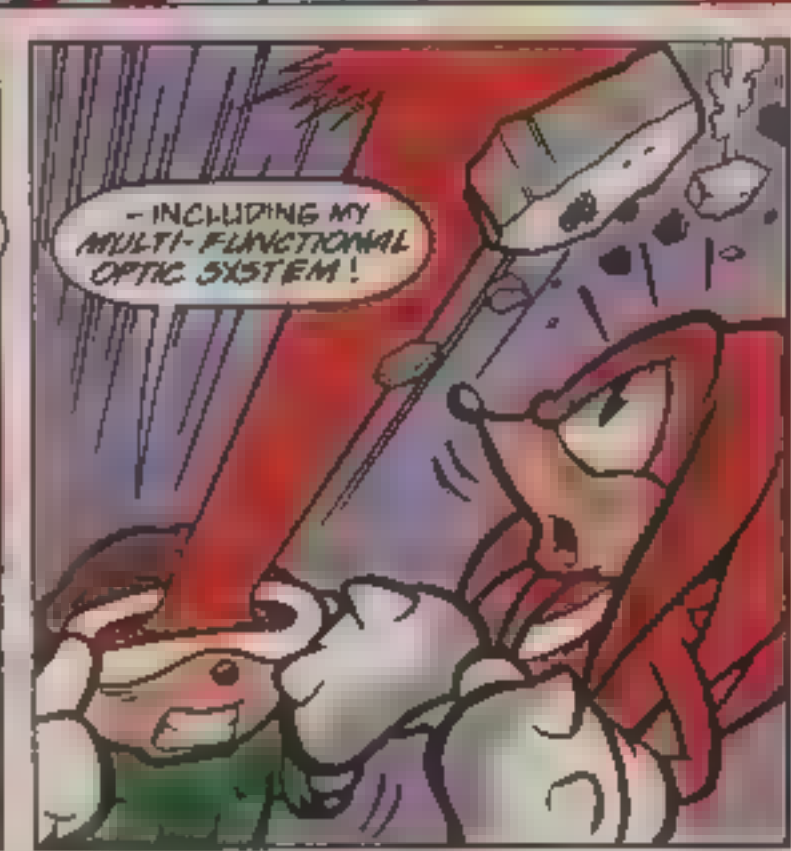
YOU'LL GO TO YOUR GRAVE FIRST, YOU SELF-CENTERED BRAT!


WHUMPH!!

BA-DUMP!
CRAA SH


GET UP!
HOW PATHETIC!
ALL YOUR POWER AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS RESORT TO YOUR FISTS!

SO BE IT!
I, ON THE OTHER HAND--
--HAVE NO QUALMS WHATSOEVER, USING EVERYTHING AT MY DISPOSAL--


--INCLUDING MY MULTI-FUNCTIONAL OPTIC SYSTEM!

YOU WERE SAYING?

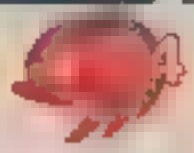
"THIS ISN'T OVER YET!"
I'VE NEVER LAID EYES ON ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
FAR OUT!
THAT'S SOME ERECTOR SET!
IT'S, ISN'T IT?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--

WELCOME TO HAVEN!

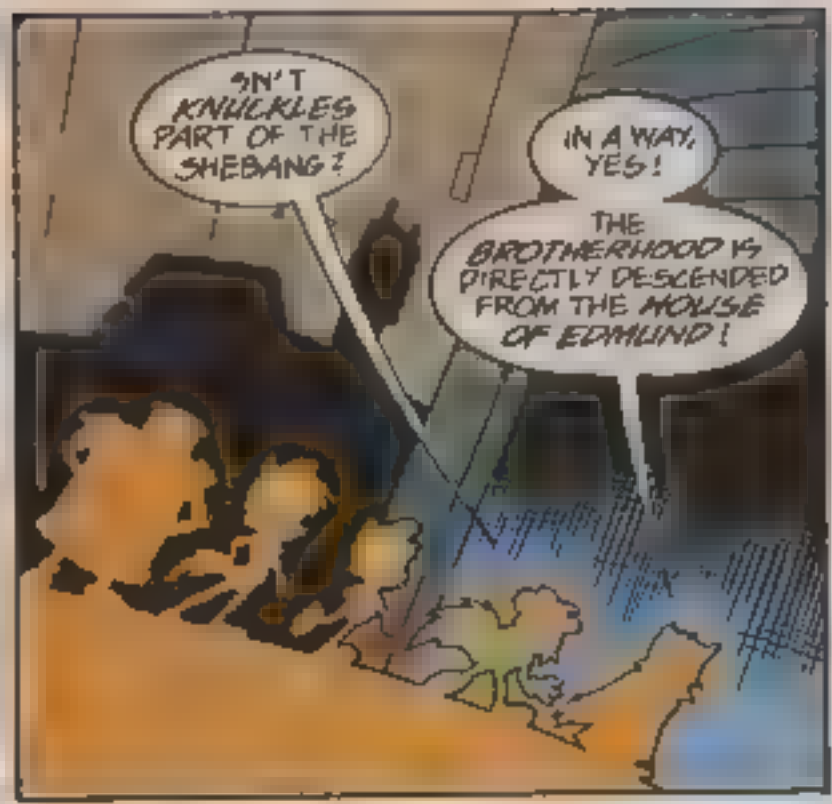
BEEP BEEP BEEP
EMERGENCY BEACON!
GUESS I HAVE TO SAVE SOMEONE ELSE'S BACON ONCE AGAIN!
NOT WITHOUT ME!
I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING!

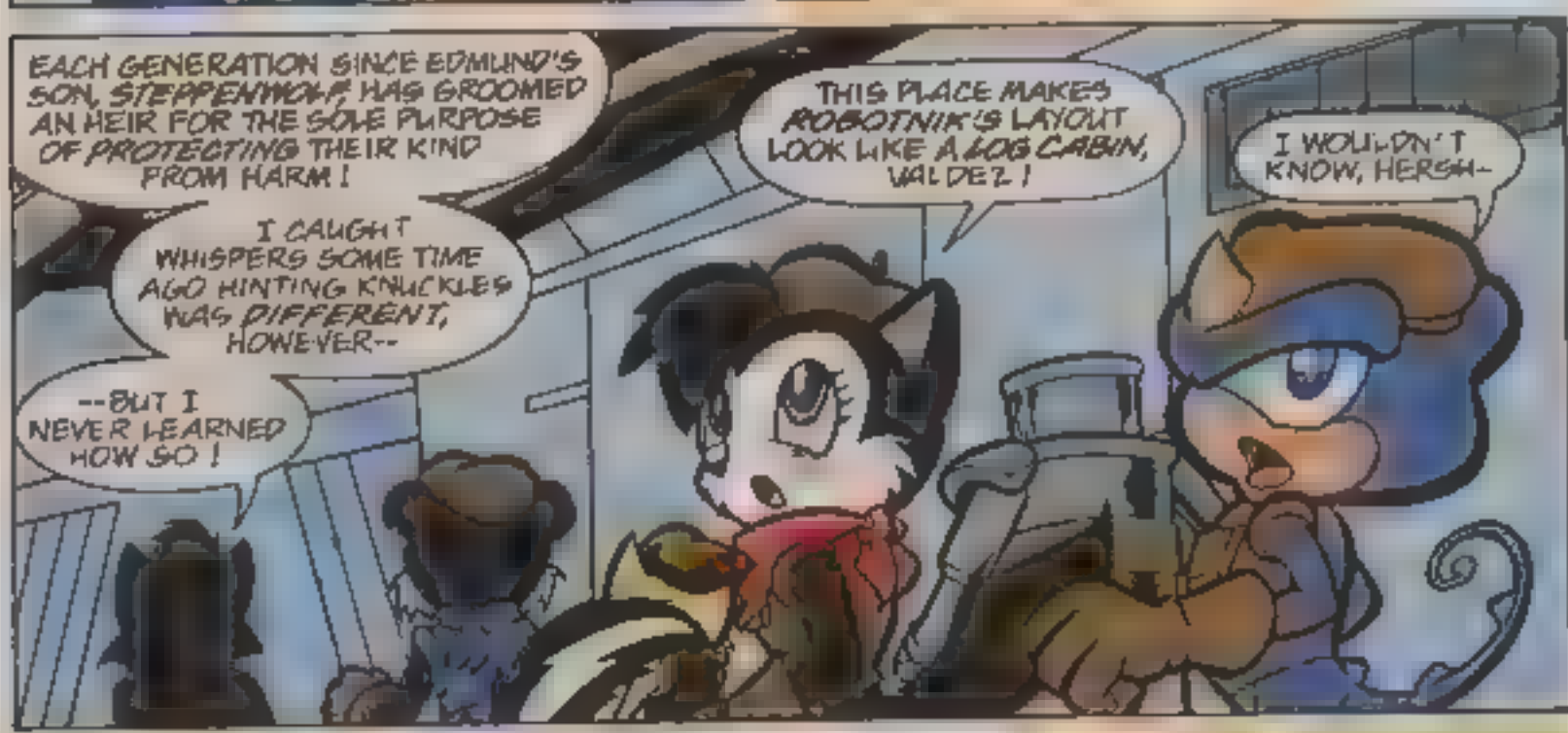
ELIAS! TAKE THE COMMANDER AND HIS SQUAD TO GABRE!
WHAT SHOULD I SAY IF HE INQUIRES ABOUT YOU?

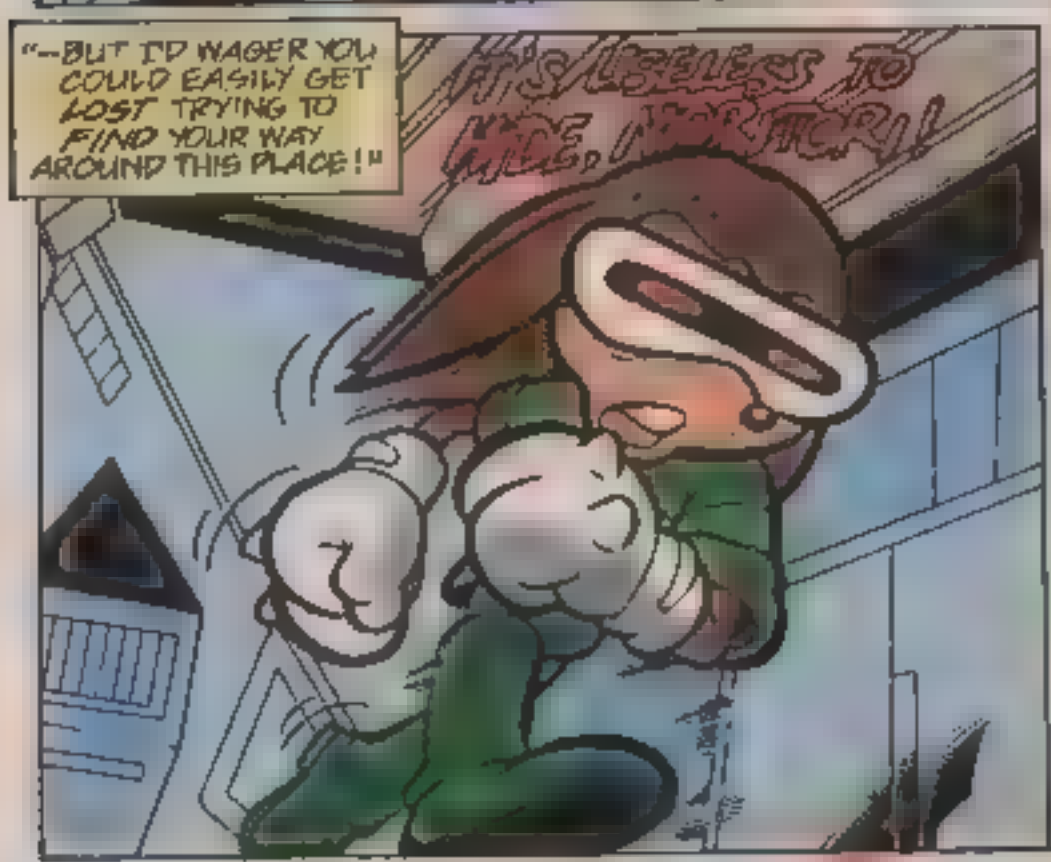
WHAT DID HE SAY?



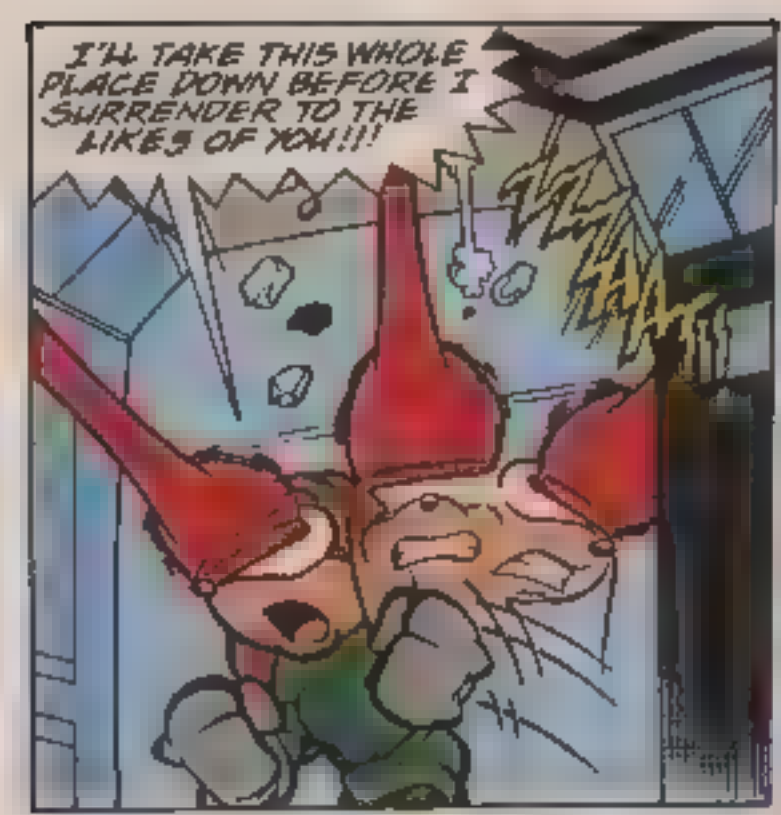
" TELL KNUCKLES I'M SORRY! "
WHAT'S HE SORRY FOR?

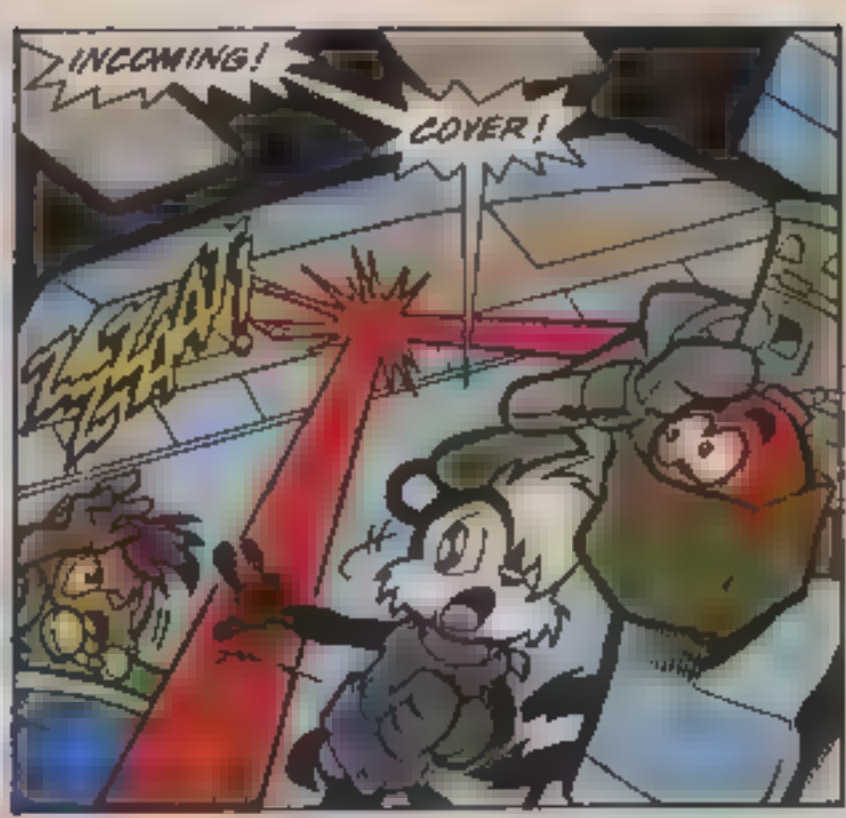

ISN'T KNUCKLES PART OF THE SHEBANG?
IN A WAY, YES!
THE BROTHERHOOD IS DIRECTLY DESCENDED FROM THE HOUSE OF EDMUND!

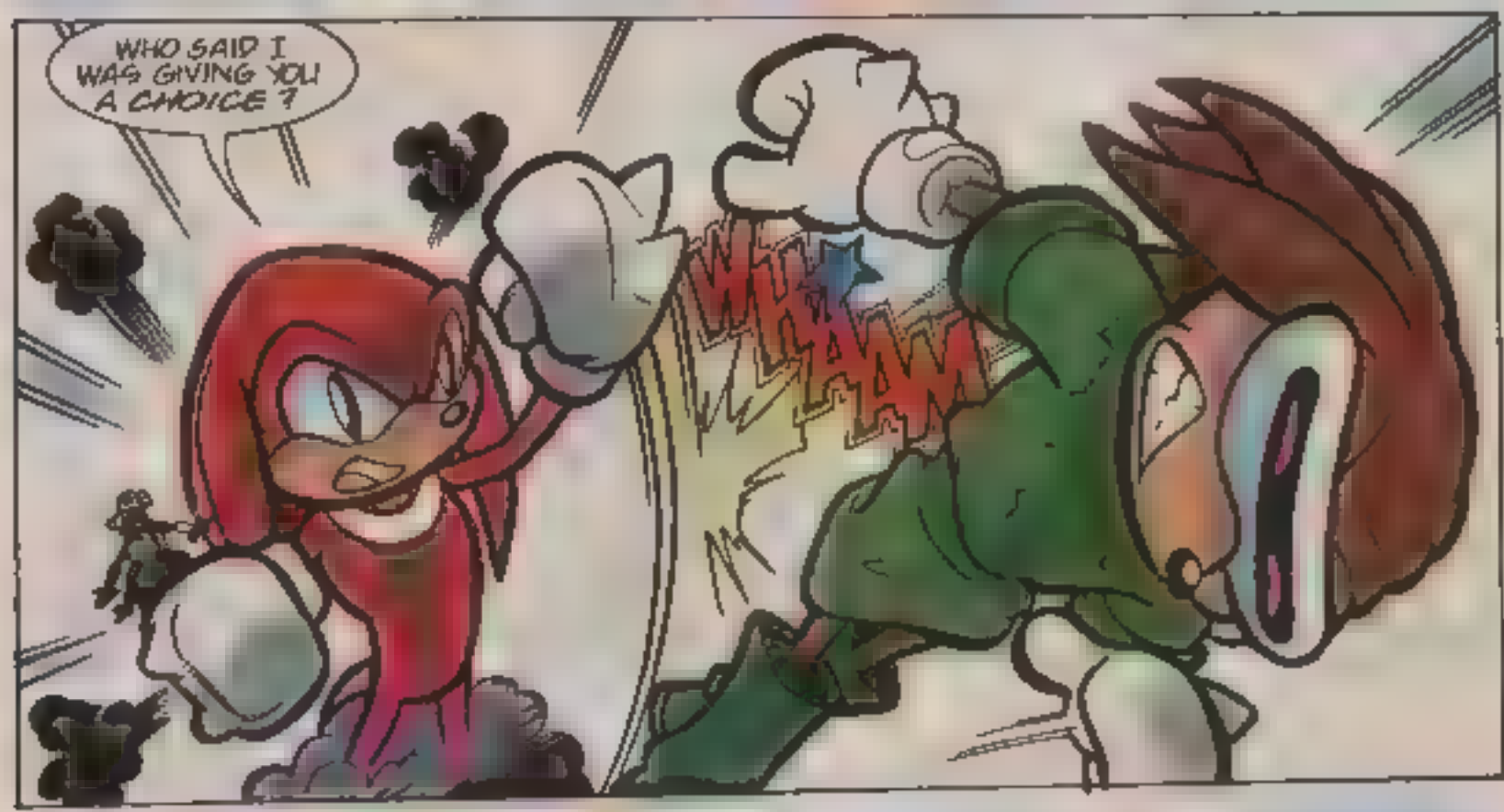

EACH GENERATION SINCE EDMUND'S SON, STEPPENWOLF, HAS GROOMED AN HEIR FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THEIR KIND FROM HARM!
I CAUGHT WHISPERS SOME TIME AGO HINTING KNUCKLES WAS DIFFERENT, HOWEVER--
--BUT I NEVER LEARNED HOW SO!
THIS PLACE MAKES ROBOTNIK'S LAYOUT LOOK LIKE A LOG CABIN, VALDEZ!
I WOULDN'T KNOW, HERSH--

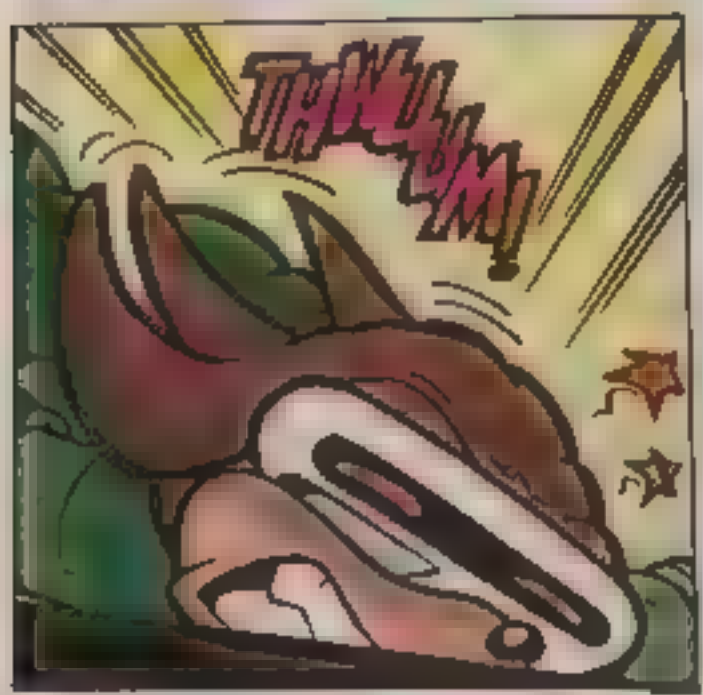

"--BUT I'D WAGER YOU COULD EASILY GET LOST TRYING TO FIND YOUR WAY AROUND THIS PLACE!"
IT'S USELESS TO HIDE, MORTICIA!

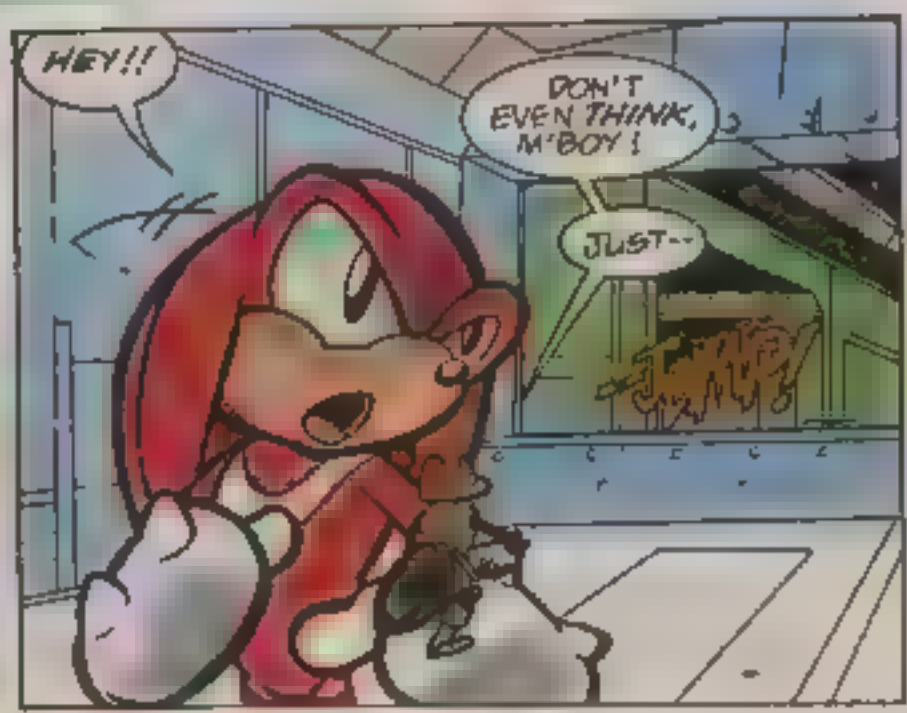
YOUR GAME IS OVER!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

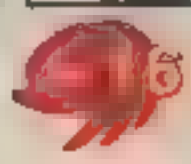

I'LL TAKE THIS WHOLE PLACE DOWN BEFORE I SURRENDER TO THE LIKES OF YOU!!!

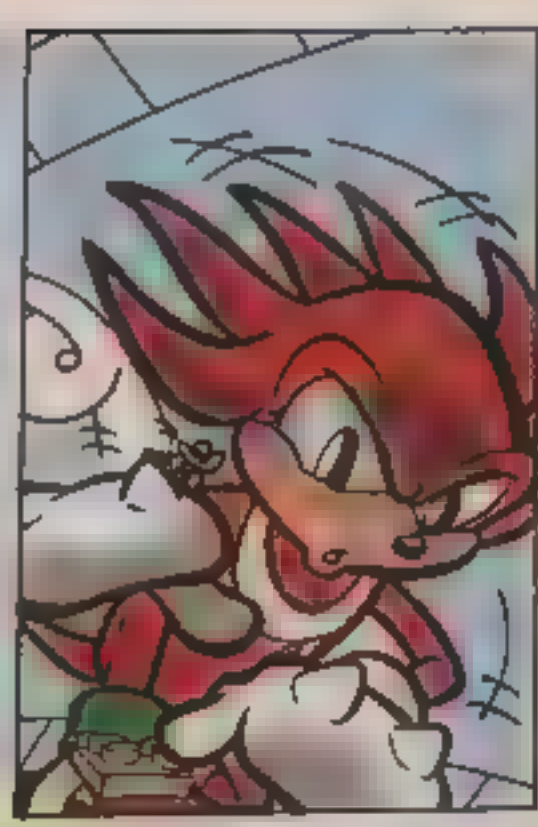

INCOMING!
COVER!


WHO SAID I WAS GIVING YOU A CHOICE?

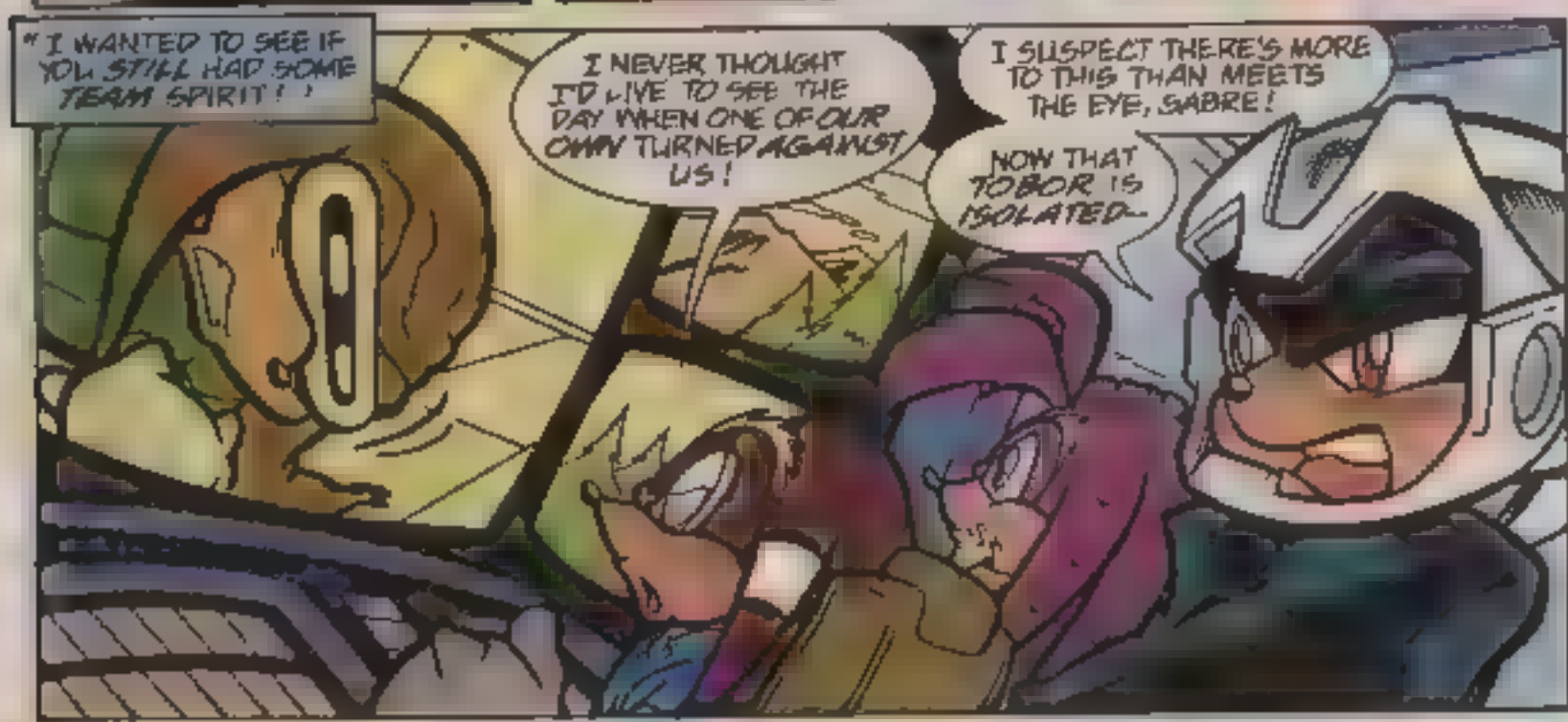


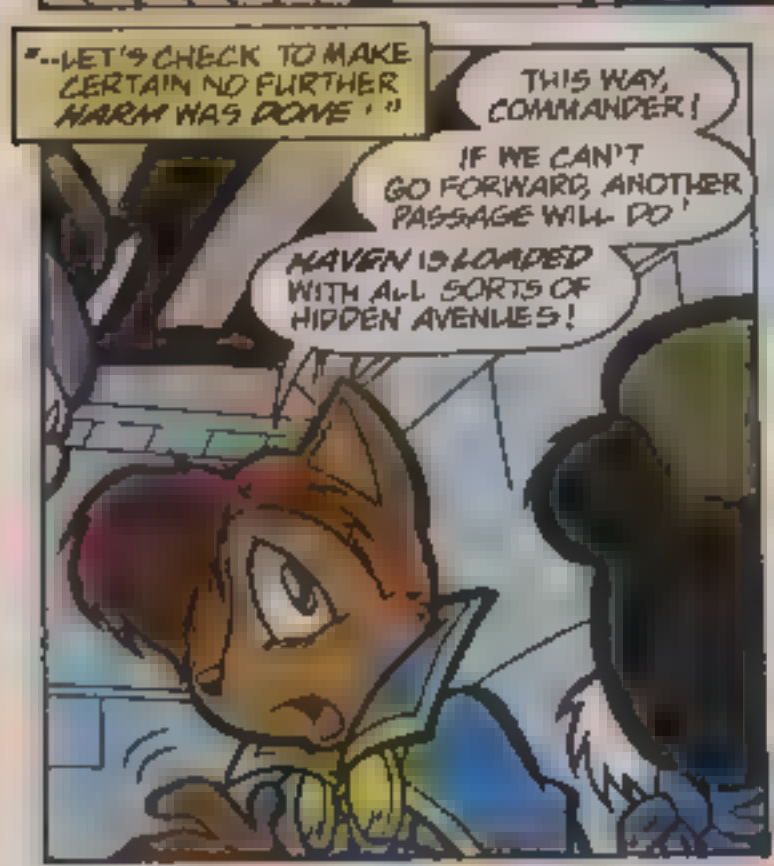

HEY!!
DON'T EVEN THINK, M'BOY!
JUST--

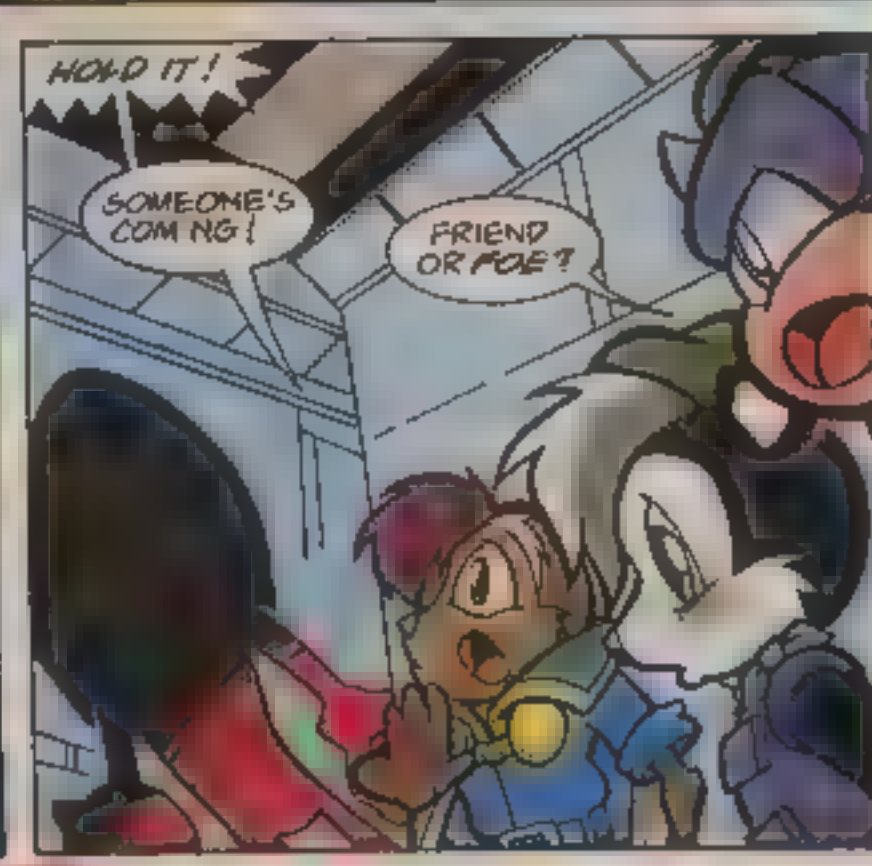




WA TAMINUTE!
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE PORTED US TO SAFETY, INSTEAD?


"I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU STILL HAD SOME TEAM SPIRIT!"
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THE DAY WHEN ONE OF OUR OWN TURNED AGAINST US!
I SUSPECT THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE, SABRE!
NOW THAT TOBOR IS ISOLATED—


"...LET'S CHECK TO MAKE CERTAIN NO FURTHER HARM WAS DONE!"
THIS WAY, COMMANDER!
IF WE CAN'T GO FORWARD, ANOTHER PASSAGE WILL DO!
HAVEN IS LOADED WITH ALL SORTS OF HIDDEN AVENUES!


HOLD IT!
SOMEONE'S COMING!
FRIEND OR FOE?

GUESS EVERYONE IS FEELING A BIT EDGY TODAY!

EDGY DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO EXPRESS THE FEELING!

YEAH, I CAN BUY THAT!

THE DARK LEGION MAKES ME GRIND MY TEETH EVERY TIME!

THE DARK LEGION?!

DO YOU MEAN TO SAY TOBOR HAS TURNED TRAITOR?

HOW DO I KNOW YOU GUYS AREN'T PALS WITH THIS PHONY?

PHONY?

OPEN THE BARRIER, SPECTRE!

WE NEED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

WHERE'S THUNDERHAWK, SOJOURNER?

HE'S IN SICK BAY CHECKING HAWKING!

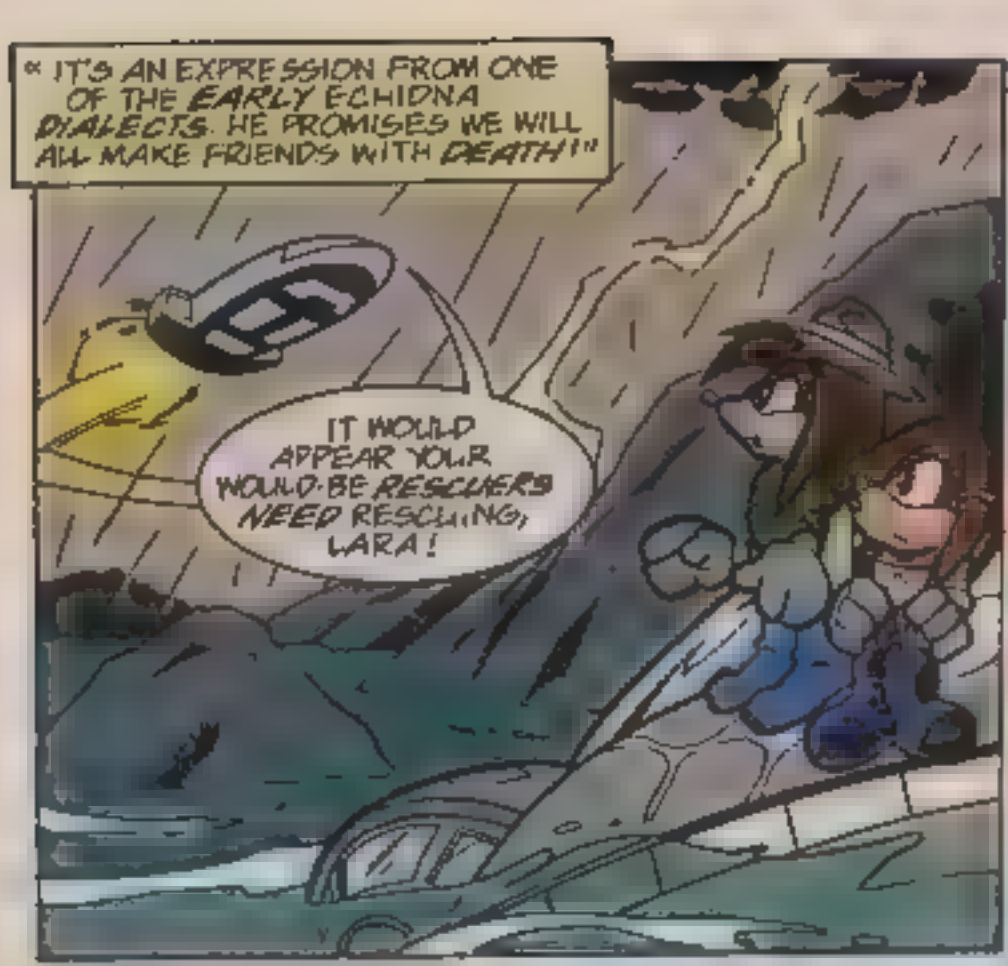
ALL I CAN SAY, SON, IS THAT YOU'RE WITH FAMILY NOW!

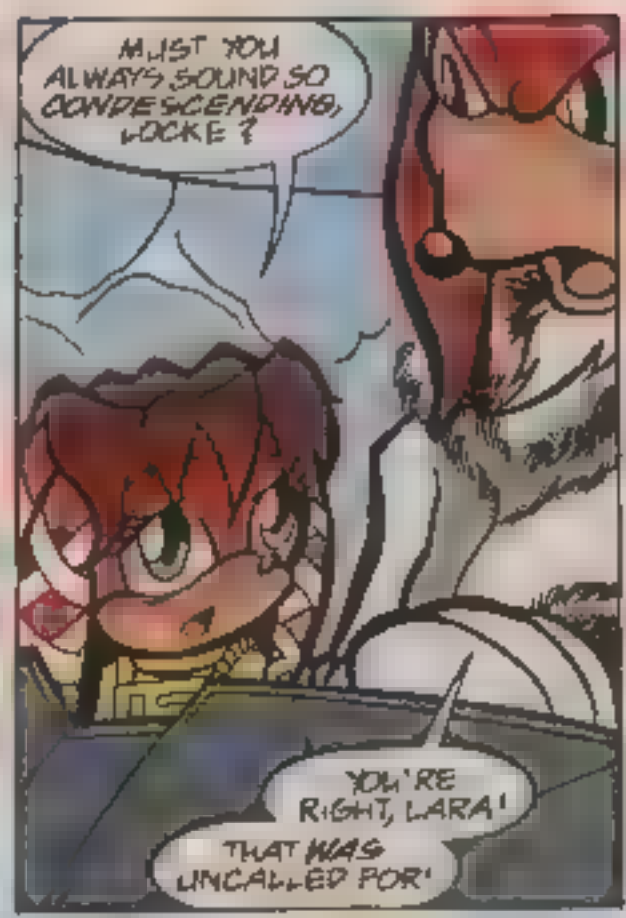
'SCUSE ME IF I DON'T GET TOO CHOKED UP!

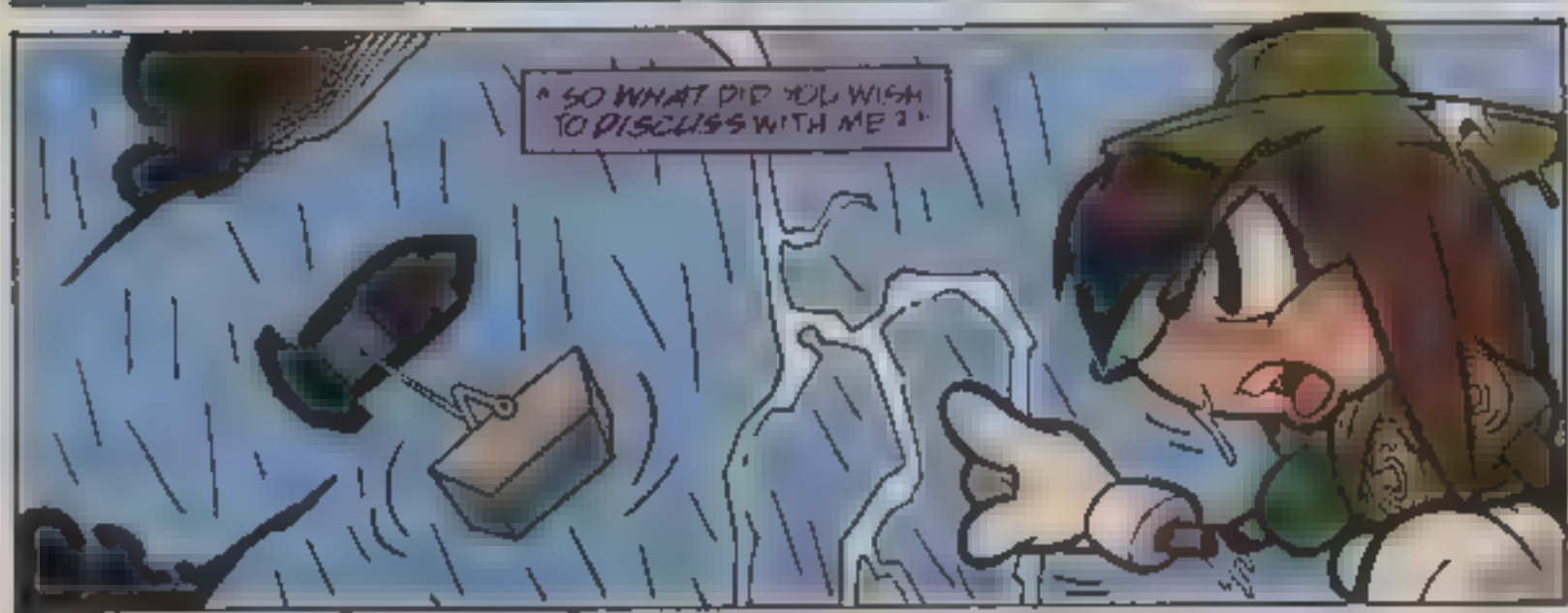
HE'S GONE!

WHAT'S THAT ON THE WALL?

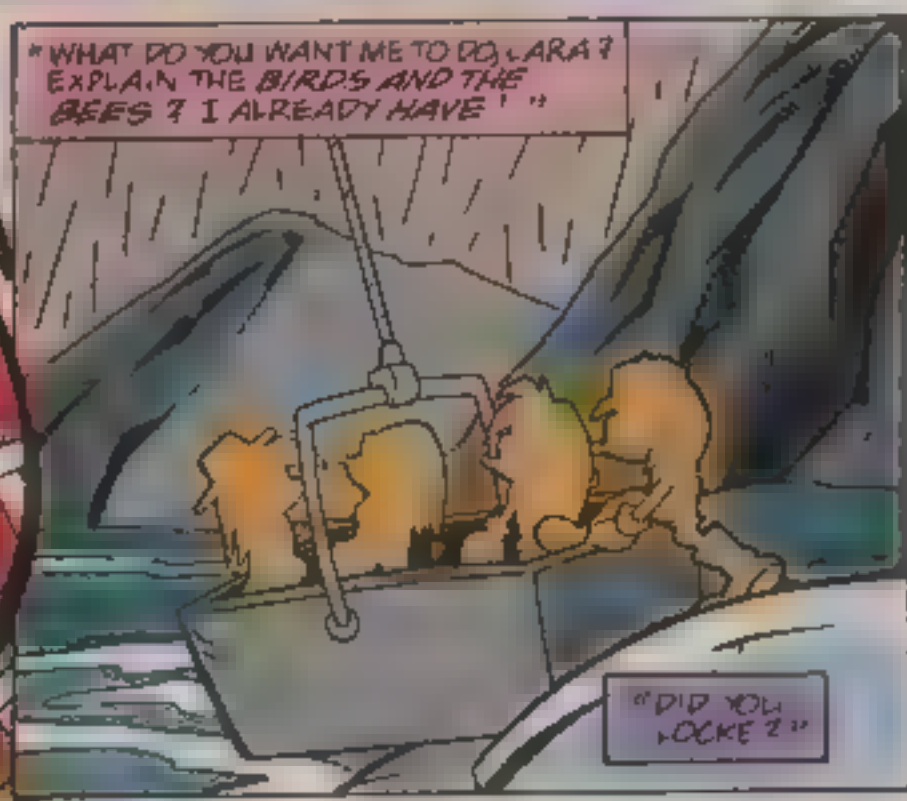
SHUNGITA

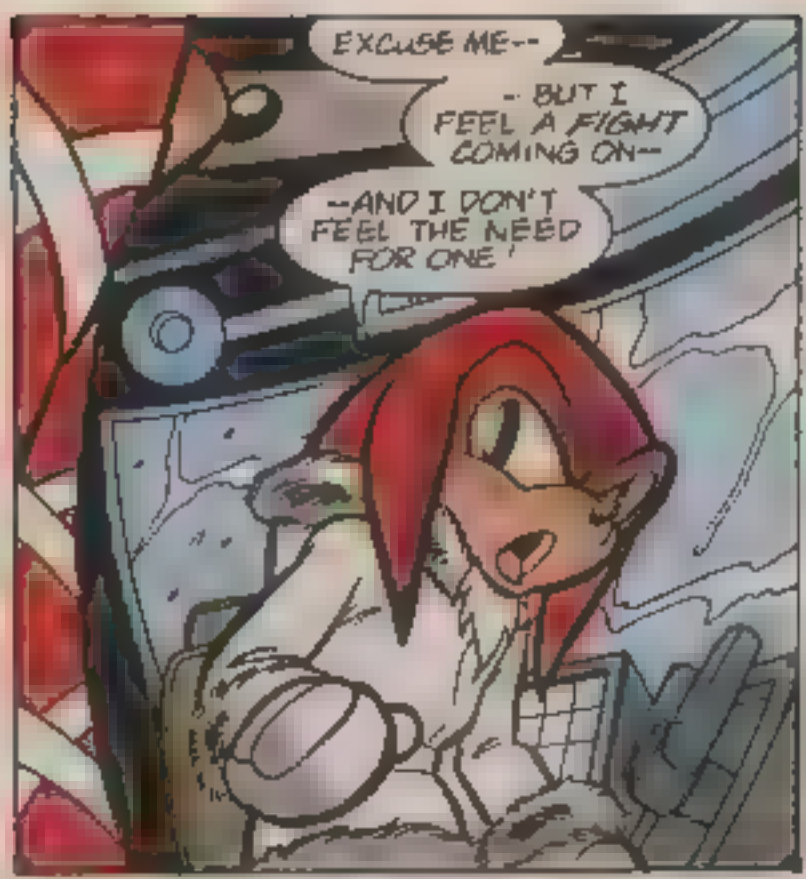

« IT'S AN EXPRESSION FROM ONE OF THE EARLY ECHIDNA DIALECTS. HE PROMISES WE WILL ALL MAKE FRIENDS WITH DEATH!"
IT WOULD APPEAR YOUR WOULD-BE RESCUERS NEED RESCUING, LARA!


MUST YOU ALWAYS SOUND SO CONDESCENDING, LOCKE?
YOU'RE RIGHT, LARA!
THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR!

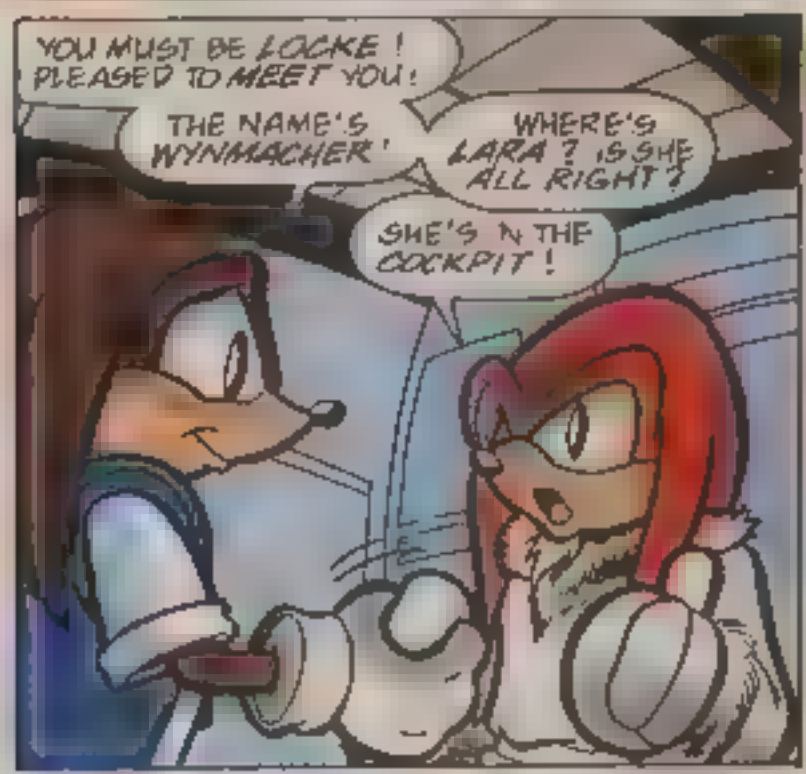

« SO WHAT DID YOU WISH TO DISCUSS WITH ME?»

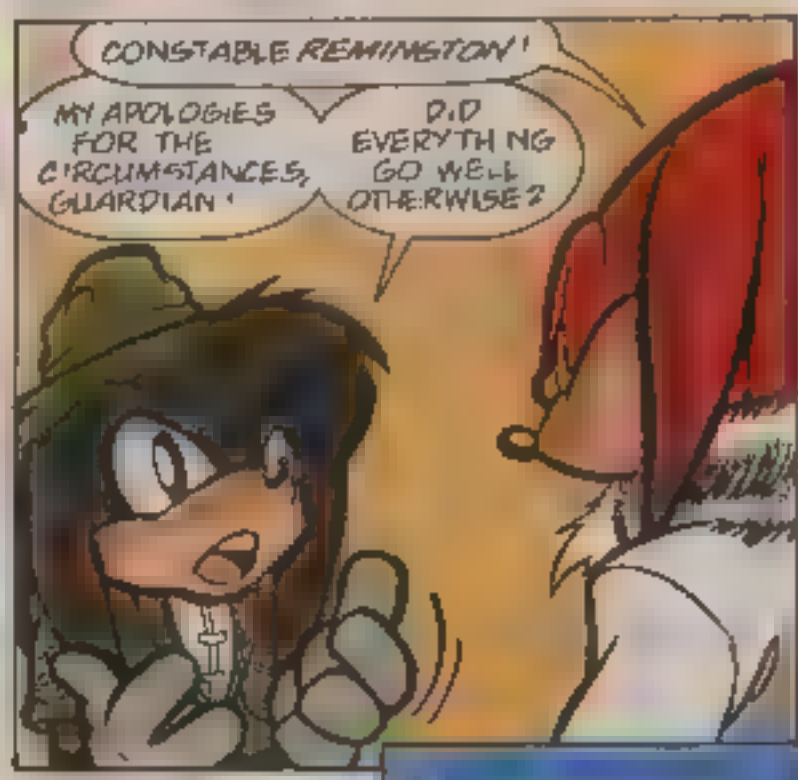
I CAME TO SEE YOU ABOUT OUR SON!
HE NEEDS A FATHER, LOCKE --
--AND I ALREADY HAVE MY HANDS FULL JUST BEING A MOTHER!

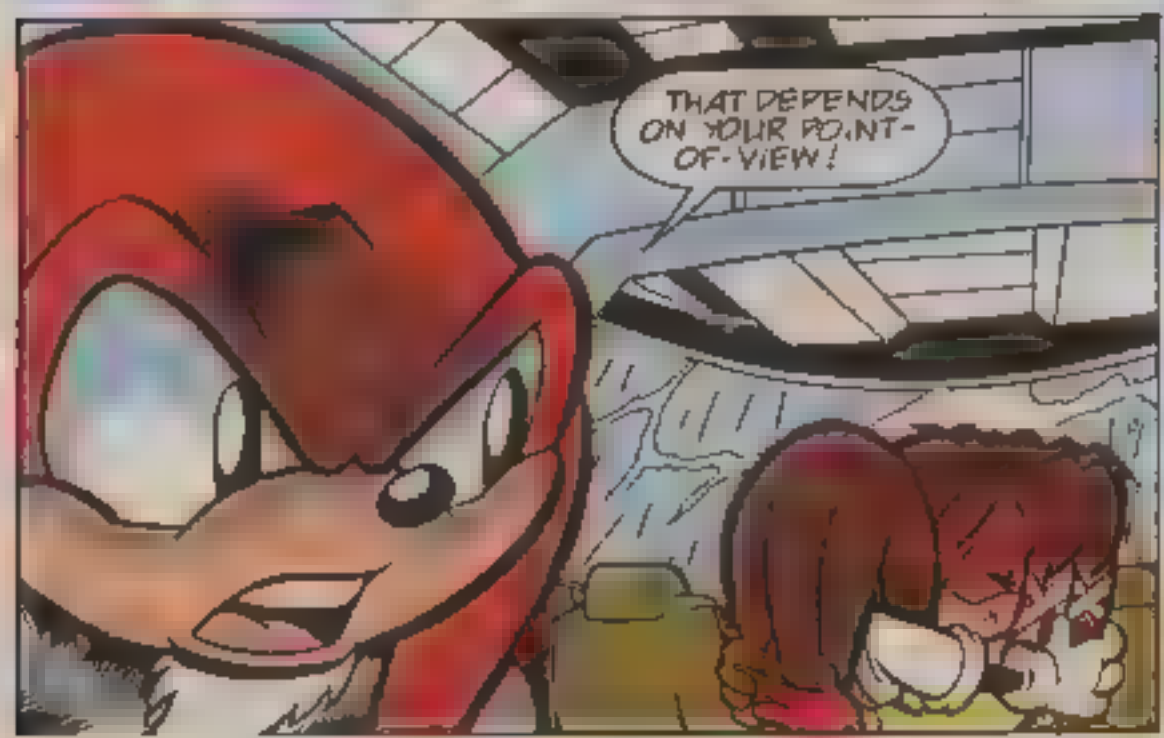

« WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, LARA? EXPLAIN THE BIRDS AND THE BEES? I ALREADY HAVE!»
«DID YOU, LOCKE?»

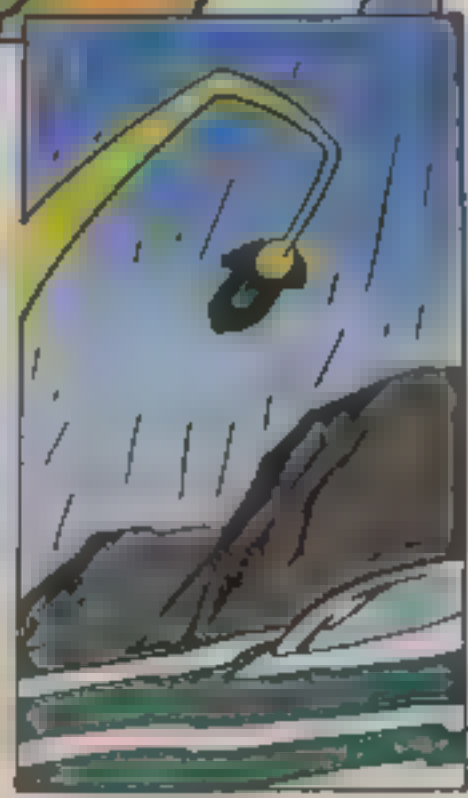

EXCUSE ME--
-- BUT I FEEL A FIGHT COMING ON--
--AND I DON'T FEEL THE NEED FOR ONE!

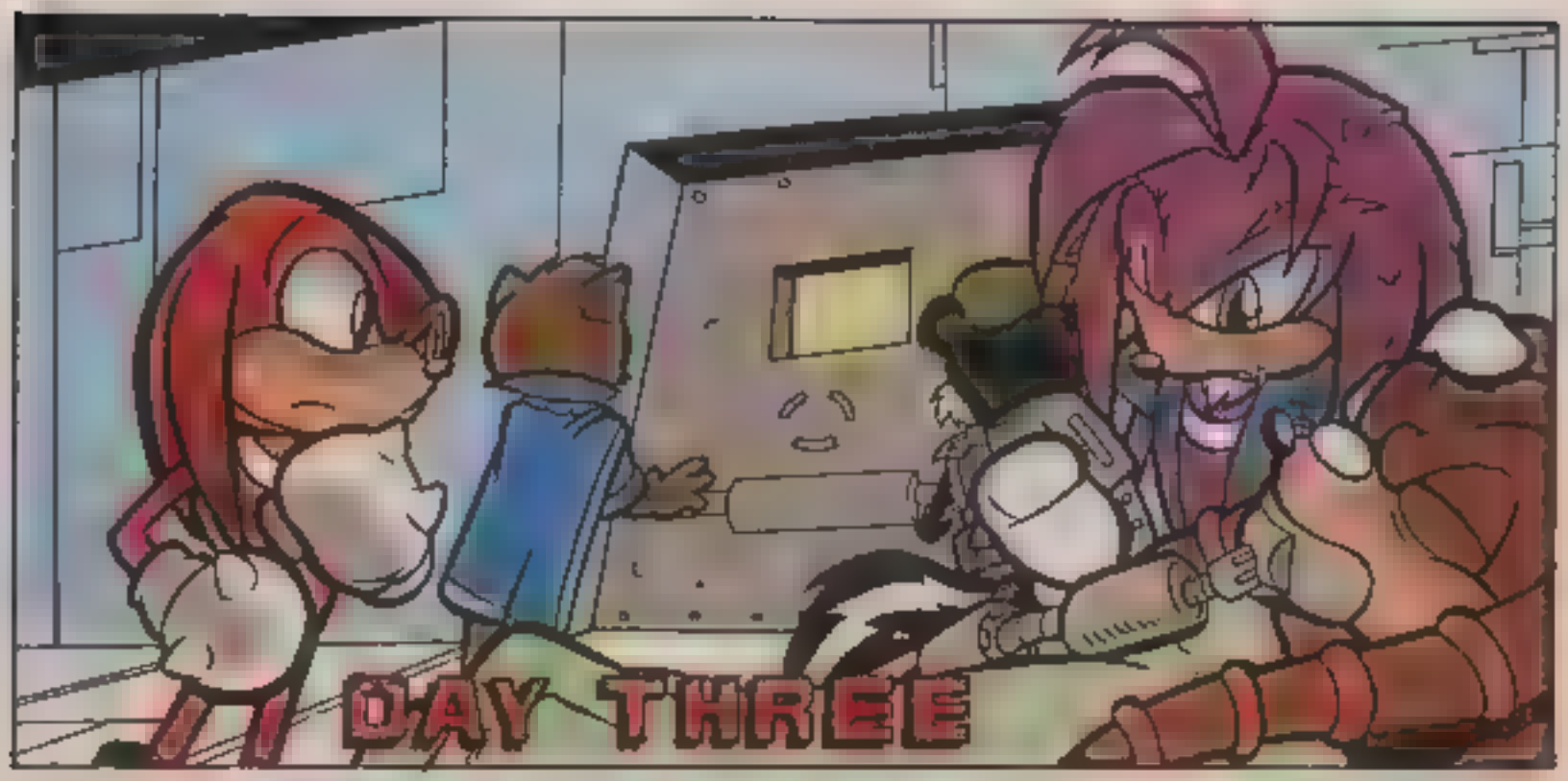
HELLO THERE!
I TAKE IT EVERYONE IS OKAY?
WE'RE FINE THANKS!


YOU MUST BE LOCKE! PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
THE NAME'S WYNMACHER!
WHERE'S LARA? IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
SHE'S IN THE COCKPIT!

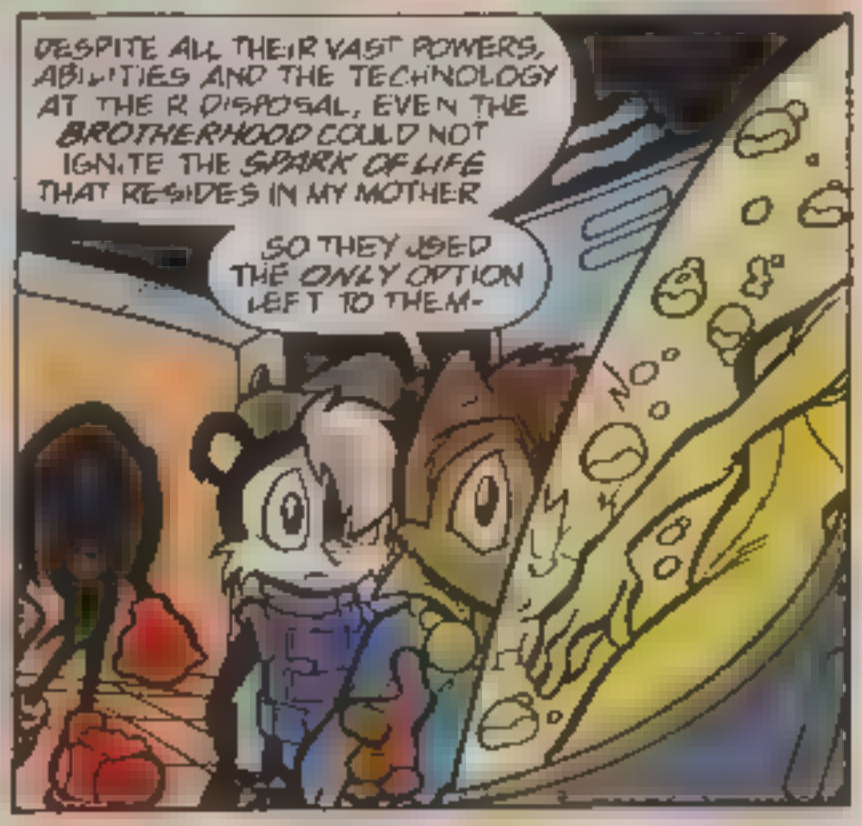

CONSTABLE REMINGTON!
MY APOLOGIES FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES, GUARDIAN!
DID EVERYTHING GO WELL OTHERWISE?

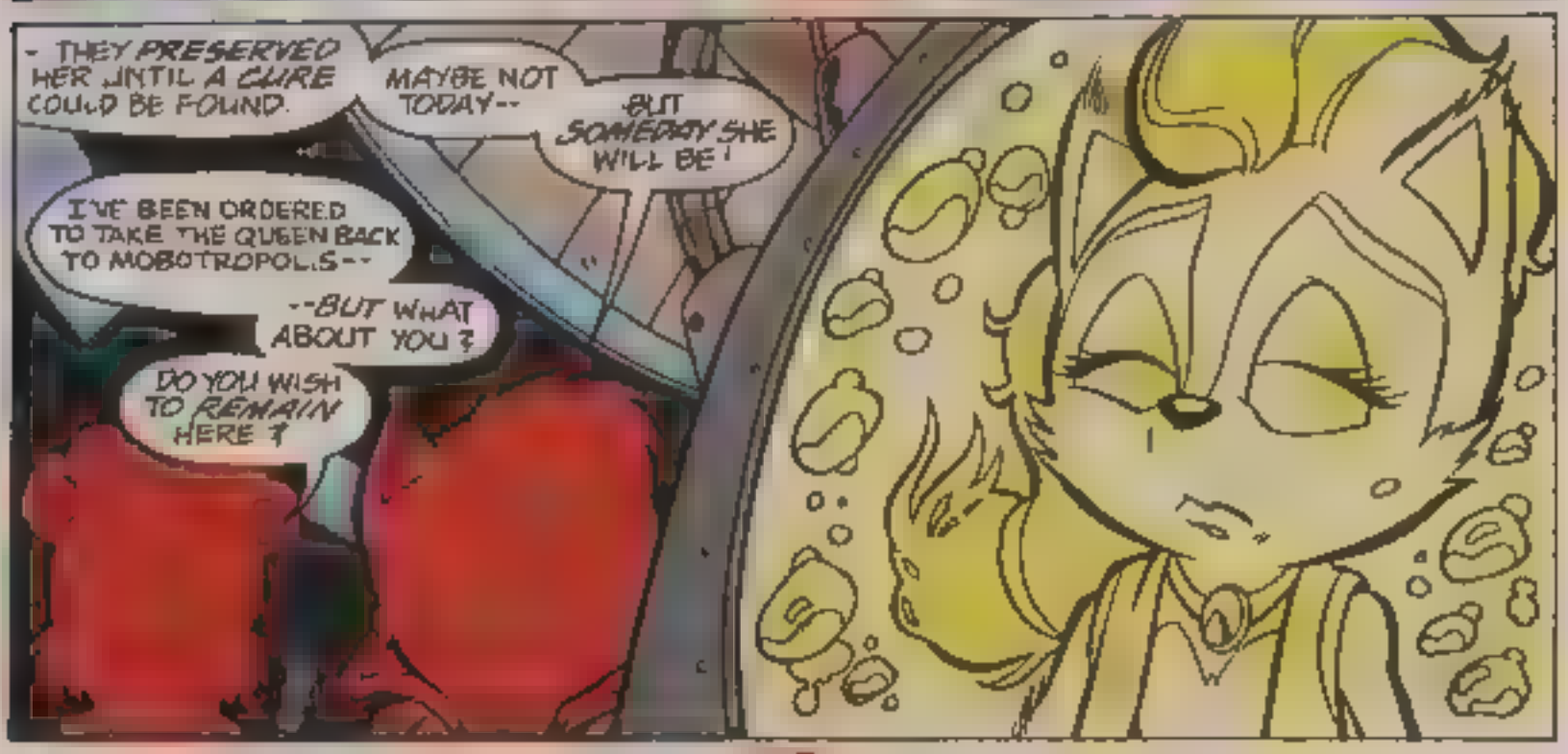

THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT-OF-VIEW!




DAY THREE

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAME FOR, COMMANDER!
HERE ARE ALL THE ANSWERS.


DESPITE ALL THEIR VAST POWERS, ABILITIES AND THE TECHNOLOGY AT THEIR DISPOSAL, EVEN THE BROTHERHOOD COULD NOT IGNITE THE SPARK OF LIFE THAT RESIDES IN MY MOTHER
SO THEY USED THE ONLY OPTION LEFT TO THEM-
NO


- THEY PRESERVED HER UNTIL A CURE COULD BE FOUND.
MAYBE NOT TODAY--
BUT SOMEDAY SHE WILL BE!
I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO TAKE THE QUEEN BACK TO MOBOTROPOLIS--
--BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DO YOU WISH TO REMAIN HERE?

NO.

I'VE A FATHER I'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW!

AND MAYBE NOW -

I CAN FINALLY GET SOME ANSWERS!

WHILE ELIAS AND GEOFFREY'S CREW RETURN TO MOBOTROPOLIS IN SONIC #68, KNUCKLES LEARNS THE STATUS QUO ISN'T ALWAYS WHAT IT SEEMS. IT'S ECHIDNA VERSUS ECHIDNA IN THE HIGHEST STAKES GAME YET. READ ALL ABOUT IT NEXT MONTH IN:

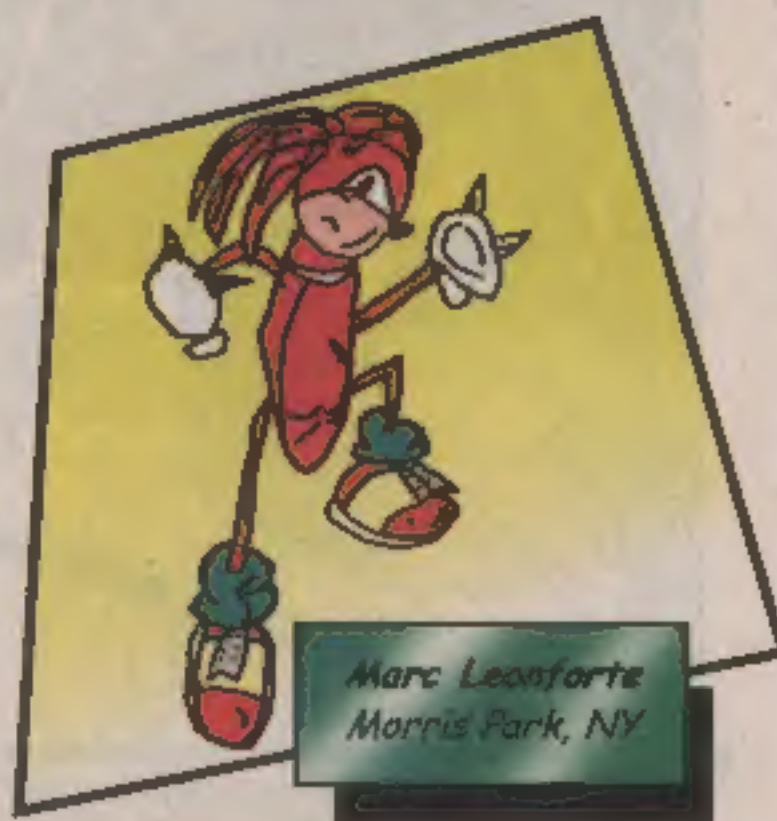
DARK ALLIANCE!!

Knuckles Fan Art

Nicole Acevedo
New Hydepark, NY

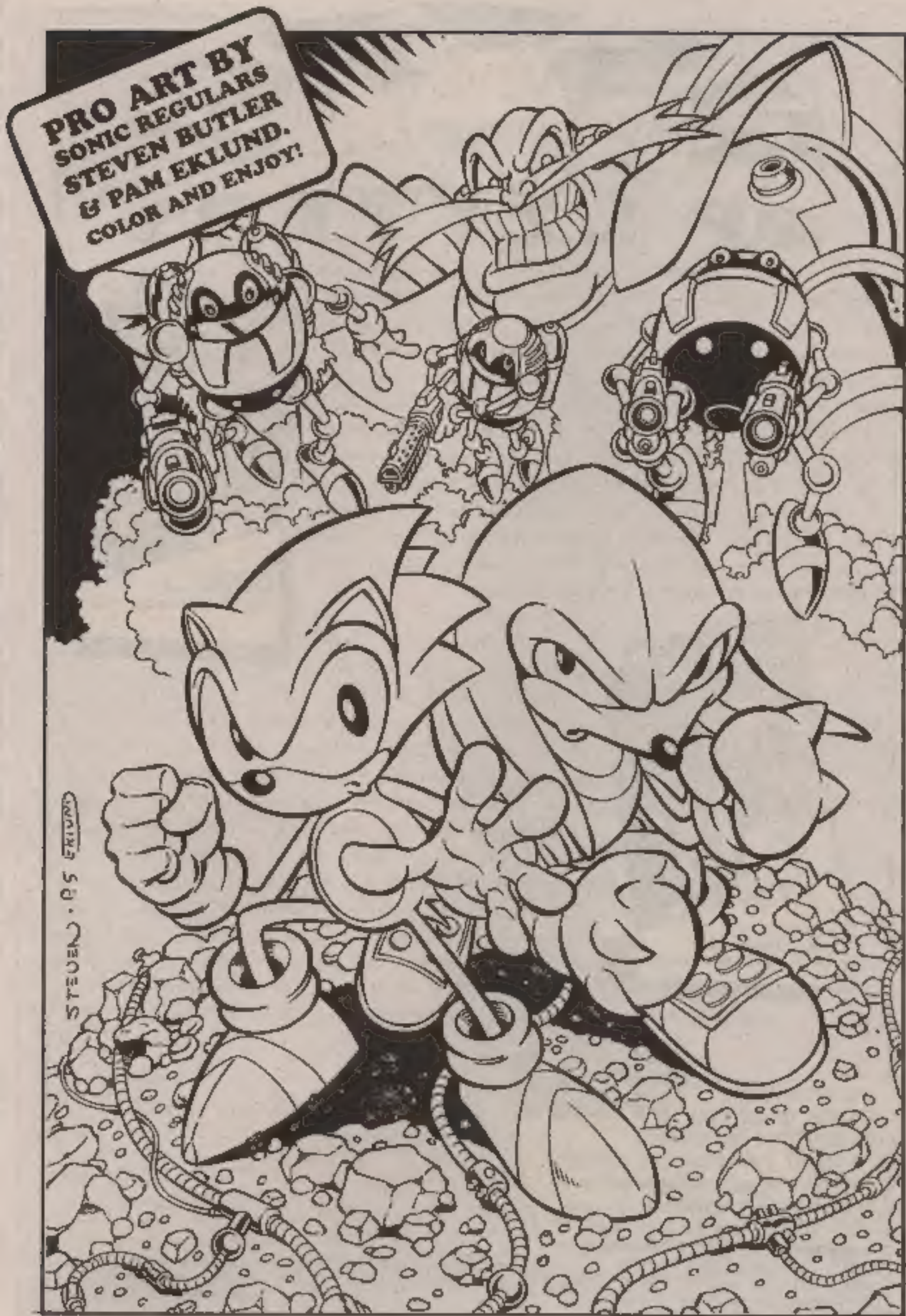
Lisa Hodge
Vacaville, CA

Nicholas Wang Tretiak
Vancouver, BC



Marc Leonforte
Morris Park, NY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR DRAWING PRINTED, PLEASE SEND A BLACK & WHITE COPY OF YOUR ART (NO ORIGINALS) TO:"KNUCKLES FAN ART #21" C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS,INC. P.O. BOX 419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419

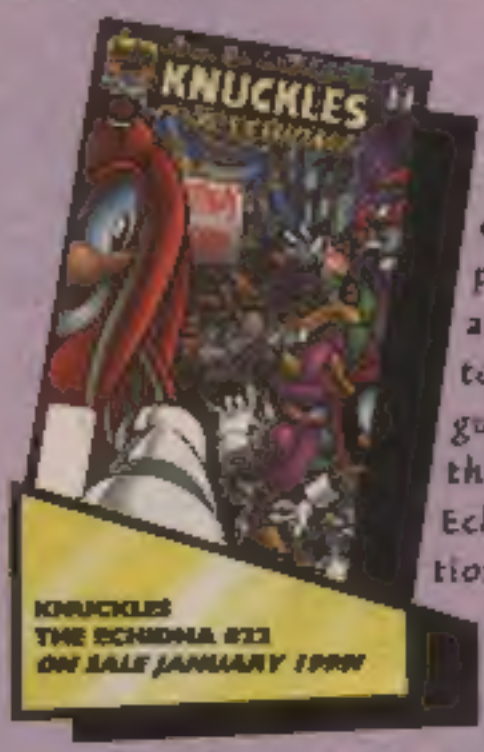

PRO ART BY
SONIC REGULARS
STEVEN BUTLER
& PAM EKLUND.
COLOR AND ENJOY!
STEVEN · 95

FISTFUL OF LETTERS

JUSTIN F. GABRIE
EDITOR

In Three Weeks: It's birthday time in Mobotropolis as The Freedom Fighters prepare to celebrate Sonic's sixteenth birthday. Sonic, Tails and Nate quietly return to Mobotropolis in an attempt to return un-noticed. However, not everything about this birthday is "happy." Another satellite over Mobotropolis activates, Snively takes charge, meteors rain on Sonic's parade, plus many, many more surprises. Don't miss this excitement-filled episode in one month as we witness "The Surprise!" Story by Karl Bollers with art by Steven Butler and Pam Eklund. Also: Lupe and The Wolf Pack, Part Two of Three! 'Nuff said! By Ken Penders and Sam Maxwell! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #68 on sale December 1998!

And next month: Hot from his artistic chores on SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #7, Image creator extraordinaire Jim Valentino takes over as guest penciler for the "Dark Alliance" story arc. Joining him and writer Ken Penders is a guest inker who's no stranger to Sonic fans: the one, the only Harvo! As you may have guessed due to the title, The Dark Legion is back! Except this time they try a different approach to take over Echidnaopolis by getting into their politics, rigging an election campaign for the next High Councilor. Things get a little hot under the collar for Knuckles in this high stakes story that features the return of one of the most requested villans of all time! You know who we're talking about, don't you! KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #22 on sale January 1999!



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CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

Justin "Freddy" Gabrie

BECAUSE OF LIMITED SPACE, THE EDITORS CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE PUBLISHED AND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT MESSAGES AS THEY SEE FIT.

NOTE: DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF E-MAIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO EACH AND EVERY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND EACH MESSAGE WILL BE READ.
THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING!

Now it's time to discuss KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA issues #13-15: "The Chaotix Caper"

Dear Archimedes,

You seem to be the only character in Knuckles comics that actually knows what is going on. So, I'm writing to you. I'm extremely confused about Knuckles' family tree!! I know who his mother is and his father is Locke. But, then I find out who Locke's father is and Locke's grandfather, Grandfather Hawking. But then I learn about Athair who is also his grandfather. So Athair and Hawking are both great-grandfathers of Knuckles? Who is the father of Knuckles' mother? I'm not sure if I got all of that correct. And I'm also not sure if Athair is Knuckles' mother's grandfather or what? See how confused I am. I appreciate your time in reading this letter.

Brian Fawcett (age 15)
St. Louis, MO

I see how all of this could easily be confusing to you. Let me give you the full list of Knuckles' relatives up to Hawking. The father of Knuckles is Locke. Locke's father is Sabre. Sabre's father is Athair. Followed by Athair is his mother Janelle-Li, the first and only female guardian, and daughter of Thunderhawk. Thunderhawk's father was Sojourner, who was the child of Spectre. Tobor is the father of Spectre, and the son of Hawking. Well, thats the family tree in a nutshell. Hope it is clearer for you now, Brian.

Dear Fistful of letters,

You guys have done a great job on Knuckles. I love the art and the story gets better every issue. Let's talk about issue #15 now. I think I'm beginning to like Julie-Su's character very much. Please don't let her leave. I'm really going to miss Charmy. I'm very interested in what's going to happen to him now that he's back home and has to face all the responsibilities that being a prince in the Bee Realm holds. Knuckles is beginning to show just how powerful he is. Hurry up and get him back on the Floating Island! I can't wait to see what happens when he sees his friends again and what his father will do. Just a suggestion: Get Knuckles' mom more involved in his life. He needs her. Now a question: Are you going to tell us more of Albion? I would really like to know some more. Well, it's time for me to go now. Remember, whatever happens, stay cool!

Alexandria Adrianna Cuellar
Washingtonville, NY

We will definitely take some of your suggestions seriously. I am sure that Knuckles' mother will appear again and play an important role in his future. As for more about Albion, it was discussed in issues 10-12, and if you continue reading in the future, I am sure all of your questions will be answered.

Dear Knuckles,

'Sup, Rad Red? Greetings for this month! Wow! Another jam-packed issue of Knuckles delivered in Super-Sonic time! It didn't even seem like a month had passed by and I already got my next issue of Knuckles. Charmy is a prince! Now, thats weird. I would have never thought of Charmy being one. Boy, you guys are full of surprises. What's next? Vector's really a peace-loving dude who listens to classical music when nobody is around? I'm glad to see that the rest of The Chaotix are recovering fine. Of course I knew they would, but I'm still glad that they are getting better. I sent you all a get-well card to cheer you guys up, of course, by the time you read this you will all be better and kickin' some butt. Charmy, you have to understand that you cannot run away from your responsibilities. Besides, Prince Charmy of the Bee Realm sounds a lot better than just "Charmy the Honey-bee".

Loved the covers. Especially the middle one with Julie-Su and Constable Remington ready for action. Gotta love that! Great job, Spaz. You make your greatest admirer proud. Well, that's all the jazz for this month! Keep up the good work, and I will see you all next month.

Kathleen "Kat" D. Najera
20314 Thornlake Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90715

Well, Kat, all of The Chaotix are grateful for the "get well" card. Very thoughtful of you. They are all recovering fine as you can see in the latest issues. We are glad that you enjoy the comic so much, and you should continue reading to find out what happens to all of your favorite characters. Good luck on the rest of your mission!

So until next month, stay cool!

BONUS: The following is a funny little sketch of Knuckles in a Shadowhawk costume by Jim Valentino.